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INFORMATION REPORT

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1.

17 May to consider the results of the Volkskongress elections. The general feeling among SED functionaries was one of hopelessness and despair. In private conversations the plaint was raised, "What is there left for us to try?"

2.

Walter Ulbricht informed the SED functionaries of the official Party reaction. His speech was reported at length in Neues Deutschland of 18 May. [REDACTED] statements by Ulbricht that were not published: "Our best workers are now being called on to make the greatest ideological concessions ever required in the history of the Party. Now is not the time for questions. There is not even time to persuade our followers that there is good foundation in Leninism for this switch to strict nationalism. The only important thing now is to establish contact with Western Germany. No more propaganda about capitalism because now the National Front is the only revolutionary front. Its best generals and armies now are the businessmen, tradesmen, and scientists who have turned their eyes to the East. Now we must welcome everyone in the West who opposes a separate western state. Here in the East, however, we will take care of those who are responsible for the 30% 'no' votes."

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3.

In regard to the date for the meeting of the Volkskongress, Ulbricht said, "We don't decide that. It depends on the situation in Paris. Maybe next Monday, maybe later. But that will be decided by those who are working for us in Paris. The Volkskongress is not going to look like a mere group of Russian Zone delegates. We are taking care of that. Everyone who casts his vote for Germany deserves our respect and the SED must realize this, class struggle notwithstanding. At this time we can only allow the most elastic thinkers in the Party to make

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